

REMARKS

Claims 16-26 are pending in the present application. Claim 16 has been amended and claim 15 has been canceled as a result of this response. No new claims have been added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 16-26 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim.

Independent claim 15 has been canceled as a result of this amendment. Thus, claims 16-26 are clearly allowable.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ariyoshi et al. (GB 2,347,263 A).

Claim 15 has been canceled and the rejection is now moot.

III. Conclusion

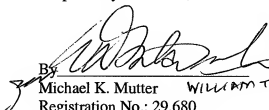
All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

Dated: October 21, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

 46463
By Michael K. Mutter WILLIAM T. TROMB
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant